

Enter Brutus and Scicinius.

Brut. All tongues speake of him, and the bleared sights
Are spectacled to see him. Your prattling Nurse
Into a rapture lets her Baby crye,
While she chats him: the Kitchen *Malkin* pinnes
Her richest Lockram 'bout her reechie necke,
Clambring the Walls to eye him:
Stalls, Bulkes, Windowes, are smother'd vp,
Leades fill'd, and Ridges hors'd
With variable Complexions; all agreeing
In earnestnesse to see him: seld-showne Flamins
Doe presse among the popular Throngs, and puffe
To winne a vulgar station: our veyl'd Dames
Commit the Warre of White and Damaske
In their nicely gawded Cheekes, toth' wanton spoyle
Of *Phabus* burning Kisses: such a poother,
As if that whatsoever God, who leades him,
Were flyly crept into his humane powers,
And gaue him gracefull posture.

Scicim. On the suddaine, I warrant him Consull.

Brutus. Then our Office may, during his power, goe sleepe.

Scicim. He cannot temp'rately transport his Honors,
From where he should begin, and end, but will
Lose those he hath wonne.

Brutus. In that there's comfort.

Scicim. Doubt not,

The Commoners, for whom we stand, but they
Vpon their ancient mallice, will forget
With the least cause, these his new Honors,
Which that he will giue them, make 1 as little question,
As he is proud to doo't.

Brutus. I heard him sweare,
Were he to stand for Consull, neuer would he
Appare i'th Marker place, nor on him put
The Naples Vesture of Humilitie,
Nor shewing (as the manner is) his Wounds
Toth' People, begge their stinking Breaths.

Scicim. 'Tis right.

Brutus. It was his word:
Oh he would misse it, rather then carry it,
But by the suite of the Gentry to him,
And the desire of the Nobles.

Scicim. I wish no better, then haue him hold that purpose,
and to put it in execution.

Brutus. 'Tis most like he will.

Scicim. It shall be to him then, as our good will; a
sure destruction.

Brutus. So it must fall out
To him, or our Authorities, for an end.
We must suggest the People, in what hatred
He still hath held them: that to's power he would
Haue made them Mules, silenc'd their Pleaders,
And dispropertied their Freedomes; holding them,
In humane Action, and Capacitie,
Of no more Soule, nor fitnesse for the World,
Then Cammels in their Warre, who haue their Prouand
Onely for bearing Burthens, and sore blowes
For sinking vnder them.

Scicim. This (as you say) suggested,
At some time, when his soaring Insolence
Shall teach the People, which time shall not want,
If he be put vpon't, and that's as easie,
As to set Dogges on Sheepe, will be his fire

To kindle their dry Stubble: and their Blaze
Shall darken him for euer.

Enter a Messenger.

Brutus. What's the matter?

Mess. You are sent for to the Capitoll:
'Tis thought, that *Martius* shall be Consull:
I haue seene the dumbe men throng to see him,
And the blind to heare him speak: Matrons fling Gloues,
Ladies and Maids their Scarffes, and Handkerchers,
Vpon him as he pass'd: the Nobles bended
As to *Ioues* Statue, and the Commons made
A Shower, and Thunder, with their Caps, and Showrs:
I neuer saw the like.

Brutus. Let's to the Capitoll,
And carry with vs Eares and Eyes for th' time,
But Hearts for the euent.

Scicim. Haue with you.

Exit.

Enter two Officers, to lay Cushions, as it were,
in the Capitoll.

1. *Off.* Come, come, they are almost here: how many
stand for Consulships?

2. *Off.* Three, they say: but 'tis thought of euery one,
Coriolanus will carry it.

1. *Off.* That's a brave fellow: but hee's vengeance
prowd, and loues not the common people.

2. *Off.* Faith, there hath bene many great men that
haue flatter'd the people, who ne're loued them; and there
be many that they haue loued, they know not wherefore:
so that if they loue they know not why, they hate vpon
no better a ground. Therefore, for *Coriolanus* neither to
care whether they loue, or hate him, manifests the true
knowledge he has in their disposition, and out of his No-
ble carelesnesse lets them plainly see't.

1. *Off.* If he did not care whether he had their loue, or
no, hee waued indifferently, twixt doing them neither
good, nor harme: but hee seekes their hate with greater
devotion, then they can render it him; and leaues nothing
vndone, that may fully discouer him their opposite. Now
to seeme to affect the mallice and displeasure of the Peo-
ple, is as bad, as that which he dislikes, to flatter them for
their loue.

2. *Off.* Hee hath deserued worthily of his Countrey,
and his ascent is not by such easie degrees as those, who
haue bene supple and courteous to the People, Bon-
netted, without any further deed, to haue them at all into
their estimation, and report: but hee hath so planted his
Honors in their Eyes, and his actions in their Hearts, that
for their Tongues to be silent, and not confesse so much,
were a kinde of ingratefull Iniurie: to report otherwise,
were a Mallice, that giuing it selfe the Lye, would plucke
reprooffe and rebuke from euery Eare that heard it.

1. *Off.* No more of him, hee's a worthy man: make
way, they are coming.

*A Sennet. Enter the Patricians, and the Tribunes of
the People, Lictors before them: Coriolanus, Menen-
ius, Cominius the Consul: Scicinius and Brutus
take their places by themselves: Corio-
lanus stands.*

Menen. Having determin'd of the Volces,
And to send for *Titus Lartius*: it remains,
As the maine Point of this our after-meeting,

To gratifie his Noble seruice, that hath
Thus stood for his Countrey. Therefore please you,
Most reuerend and graue Elders, to desire
The present Consull, and last Generally,
In our well-found Successes, to report
A little of that worthy Worke, perform'd
By *Martius Cninus Coriolanus*: whom
We met here, both to thanke, and to remember,
With Honors like himselfe.

1. *Sen.* Speake, good *Cominius*:
Leave nothing out for length, and make vs thinke
Rather our states defectiue for requitall,
Then we to stretch it out. Masters a'th' People,
We doe request your kindest eares: and after
Your louing motion toward the common Body,
To yeeld what passes here.

Scicim. We are conuented vpon a pleasing Treatie, and
haue hearts inclinable to honor and aduance the Theame
of our Assembly.

Brutus. Which the rather wee shall be blest to doe, if
he remember a kinder value of the People, then he hath
hereto priz'd them at.

Menen. That's off, that's off: I would you rather had
been silent: Please you to heare *Cominius* speake?

Brutus. Most willingly: but yet my Caution was
more pertinent then the rebuke you giue it.

Menen. He loues your People, but tie him not to be
their Bed-fellow: Worthie *Cominius* speake.

Coriolanus rises, and offers to goe away.

Nay, keepe your place.

Senat. Sit *Coriolanus*: neuer shame to heare
What you haue Nobly done.

Coriol. Your Honors pardon:

I had rather haue my Wounds to heale againe,

Then heare say how I got them.

Brutus. Sir, I hope my words dis-bench'd you not?

Coriol. No Sir: yet off,

When blowes haue made me stay, I fled from words.

You sooth'd not, therefore hurt not: but your People,
I loue them as they weigh--

Menen. Pray now sit downe.

Corio. I had rather haue one scratch my Head i'th' Sun,
When the Alarum were strucke, then idly sit

To heare my Nothings monster'd. *Exit Coriolanus*

Menen. Masters of the People,

Your multiplying Spawne, how can he flatter?

That's thousand to one good one, when you now see

He had rather venture all his Limbes for Honor,

Then on ones Eares to heare it. Proceed *Cominius*.

Com. I shall lacke voyce: the deeds of *Coriolanus*

Should not be vtter'd feebly: it is held,

That Valour is the chiefest Vertue,

And most dignifies the haue: if it be,

The man I speake of, cannot in the World

Be singly counter-poys'd. At sixteene yeeres,

When *Tarquin* made a Head for Rome, he fought

Beyond the marke of others: our then Dictator,

Whom with all prayse I point at, saw him fight,

When with his Amazonian Shinne he drone

The brizled Lipps before him: he bestrid

An o're-prest Roman, and i'th' Consul's view

Slew three Opposers: *Tarquin* selfe he met,

And struke him on his Knee: in that dayes feates,

When he might act the Woman in the Scene,

He prou'd best man i'th' field; and for his meed

Was brow-bound with the Oake. His Pupill age

Man-entred thus, he wacke

And in the brunt of seuer

He lurcht all Swords of th

Before, and in Corioles, I

I cannot speake him hom

And by his rare example

Turne terror into sport:

A Vessell vnder sayle, to

And fell below his Stem:

Where it did marke, it to

He was a thing of Blood,

Was tim'd with dying C

The mortall Gate of th' C

With shunlesse definie:

And with a sudden re-inf

Corioles like a Planet: no

When by and by the dinne

His readie fence: then st

Requickned what in flesh

And to the Battaille came

Runne recking o're the li

A perpetuall spoyle: and

Both Field and Citie ours

To ease his Brest with pa

Menen. Worthy man

Senat. He cannot bu

which we deuise him.

Com. Our spoyles he

And look'd vpon things

The common Muck of th

Then Miserie it selfe w

With doing them, and is

To spend the time, to end

Menen. Hee's right N

Senat. Call *Coriolanus*

Off. He doth appeare

Enter

Menen. The Senate, Cor

thee Consull.

Corio. I doe owe thee

Menen. It then remai

People.

Corio. I doe beseech

Let me o're-leape that cu

Put on the Gowne, stand

For my Wounds sake, to

Please you that I may pa

Scicim. Sir, the People

Neyther will they bate o

Menen. Put them not

Pray you goe sit you to

And take to you, as your

Your Honor with your s

Corio. It is a part tha

And might well be taken

Brutus. Marke you th

Corio. To brag vnto

Shew them th' making S

As if I had receiu'd them

Of their breath onely.

Menen. Doe not star

We recommend to you

Our purpose to them, an

Wish we all Ioy, and Ho